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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 15, 2000**

BORDER PATROL CONDUCTS MOUNTAIN RESCUE ON TECATE PEAK

TECATE, CALIFORNIA: The Border Patrol's Border Search Trauma and Rescue team (BORSTAR) conducted a life saving rescue on Saturday May 13th. The operation took place near Tecate Peak in the rugged terrain of East County.

At approximately 5 PM, a rescue effort was initiated after an undocumented migrant reported he had left behind a group of three individuals, one of which was suffering from a knee injury. The individuals were found during an aerial search by Border Patrol pilots, on the East Side of Tecate Peak.

The terrain in this area is impassible by vehicle and helicopter and required BORSTAR agents to be dropped off at a distance and hike to the injured party. Upon arrival to the scene the individual complained of neck and back pain and the agents determined that his injuries were more serious than originally reported. Agents stabilized the individual and performed a "litter extraction" with the BORSTAR helicopter. This is the process by which the victim is placed in a basket, hanging from the helicopter, and accompanied by a rescuer. The victim was transported to an awaiting ambulance and transported to Grossmont Hospital. It was later determined that the individual had sustained internal bleeding and without the intervention and rescue efforts by the U.S. Border Patrol, may have died as a result of his injuries.

This incident serves as another example of the U.S. Border Patrol's commitment to reduce injuries and prevent the loss of life in the border area.